

WARSHIP A DEATH TRAP.

The Dangers, Aside From Hostilities, Which Confront Sailors' Most Fears.

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The United States war vessel, whether she be a battleship or an unarmored cruiser, when swinging at anchor looks like a graceful dove nestling on the water. When she skirts over the sea, she reminds one of the swan, as with apparently no effort she cleaves the waves and is at once a thing of beauty and a joy to the eye. In the heat of white paint, which was always kept in a state of purity, the smooth held good. In lead or darker color some of the grace has disappeared, and there is possibly a forbidding look about her when with gun muzzles poking from every porthole and crowds of armed men hovering about the decks in threatening attitude there is no doubt of her bellicose intentions.

Despite their air of peaceful severity when the war vessel is merely a naval messenger gliding across the oceans from country to province, from kingdom to republic, she is at all times a veritable death trap. Serious accidents, if not wholesale disasters, have frequently been averted only by the readiness of wit and reckless bravery for which our sailors are famous.

Danger lurks everywhere on board a modern man-of-war. The most careful sailor, marine or officer often finds himself on the verge of a catastrophe which without quick thinking and lightning action on the part of some one would destroy him and many of his mates and perhaps entail the entire destruction of the ship and crew. A thinking head on his shoulders during his yacking hours is an absolute requirement of every one on board a man-of-war from stoker to captain.

A week rarely passes that some one on a warship is not more or less dangerously hurt. If there is not an unguarded open hatchway for him to step into and fall to the deck below, with broken limb or cracked skull, the seaman has a chance to smash his toes or crush his fingers in the mechanical machinery of the ship.

On the cruises that carry him both for steady purposes and as motor auxiliaries in case of need, he may be struck on the side of the head by a loose snapping halibut, or he may be tumbled to the deck from a suddenly slackening rigging rope. Down below in the black hold of the ship a fireman is often thoughtlessly picking up an almost red-hot slice of hot iron or cutting a stream of steam in his eyes from the careless handling of valves. In fact, the majority of a crew in a three years' cruise are very likely to have some maimed or injured finger, elbow or knee and some wear an artificial leg as a memento of their time of service.

The man who turns a blind eye to the danger of the sea and the danger of the ship is a fool. The danger of the sea is a constant and can only be guarded against. Fire in the gun bunkers may reach the magazines, and there would ensue a tragedy only equaled by the horrors of the ship.

Great quantities of coal are dug in vacuum pits and the coal is practically perfect for steam making purposes, but this kind is not used on a warship because of its known liability to ignite if itself in hot bunkers abutting upon fire and boiler rooms.

In each of the gun bunkers there is, of course, an automatic apparatus that gives the alarm when the temperature of the coal has risen above a certain point. The bunkers are numbered, and if the temperature of No. 2, for example, rises beyond the set mark the danger is announced by means of a ringing registering machine placed just outside the captain's cabin. The marine orderly for the commanding officer, whose station seat outside the cabin door enables him to keep his eye on this fire alarm is at all times the man to communicate the news to the officer of the deck. Then the ship's bugler sounds "fire quarters," and every man is instantly at his detailed post on the fire station.

There is no guesswork. Every sailor has been drilled in this for months, and he has an exact position in which to stand. The absence of one or more men makes no difference. The vacancies can be supplied from outside. Steam is turned into the bunker quickly extinguished. Such minor conflagrations are not infrequent, but the handsman never hears of them unless from the idle chat of sailors months afterwards.

No coal passer or any other person connected with an engine's firing is permitted to carry an open light into the bunkers, though the passers often violate this regulation. The bunkers are each fitted with two standing electric lights, but in leading ship the glass casings surrounding these lights are generally smashed by accident, leaving the bunkers unlighted. As there is then Cimmerian darkness inside, the passers carry open lights despite the emphatic rule that they should not.

There are today several warrant officers in the navy who are indebted for their uniforms to the rapid judgment and bravery in the face of impending magazine accidents. Many true anecdotes are related of the sagacity and quick wittedness of sailors, men and officers in the moment of danger, and no act of bravery ever goes unrecognized by the government.

One of the first of the navy's new steel ships had not been in commission three months before a bright apparent fire had executed a rapid descent into the magazine, an act that placed him at the top of the line for the gun-

ner's warrant he now holds. The gun divisions of the crew were overhauling the after magazine, breaking out fixed ammunition and cans of powder and gun cotton and cleaning and red leading the bludge. The ship had not been equipped with electricity, and so closed

the door against the steel side of the hold. The spring that held the lamp in place gave way, and, still lighted, it fell right side up on top of a large can of powder that was ready to be hoisted.

The two men in the pit had gone aft in the magazine to haul more cans of powder to the hooks, and they did not see the lamp resting on the can of powder. The men at the top of the hatch were in a stupor of horror, but the alert apprentice boy, who later received his sword for the heroic act, slammed down the tackle and grabbed the lamp. The flame had already begun to heat the can metal. The boy put the light out, grabbed the rope with his right hand and the can of powder with his left and yelled up the hatch, "Pull me and the can up to the main deck, you fellows!"

Another instance of personal heroism occurred more recently. Only a short

time ago one of the ships of the north coast over the electric button gazing at the main battery. The captain's excited

tried from the main battery. The captain was in the conning tower, as usual, and he gasped for a minute or two and

directing operations, and with him was a gunner's mate, serving as a messenger. One of the big guns was on the "needle point" of being electrically fired when the mate's sharp eye saw that the breech of the cannon was not locked. He didn't indulge in any disconcerting yell that might have caused the man at the electric button to give

it an accidental push. Without saying a word he made two bounds for the exposed insulating wire in the conning tower connected with the gun's electric fuse, ripped it in several places with the entire strength of both hands and then collapsed, weak as a kitten, the commanding officer with his finger hovering over the electric button.

Not only is the magazine of a ship, which is a question of eternal vigilance. The strictest discipline is in sufficient to insure absolute safety. There must be rare intelligence to grasp the proper opportunity for escape from sudden death.

There have been many other cases where the salvation of vessels and crew depended upon the mental activity and bodily agility of some one man, and it is a matter for self gratulation that that one has thus far always been present and has likewise known exactly what was the right thing to do.

But, after all, life on board of a man-of-war is a question of eternal vigilance. The strictest discipline is in sufficient to insure absolute safety. There must be rare intelligence to grasp the proper opportunity for escape from sudden death.

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then told how nearly they had come to razing the topgallant forecastle, even to the star deck, and to killing two dozen or more of the officers and men, "including me and you," as he said in conclusion.

If the gun with its unlocked breech had been fired, there would not have been much left of the cruiser forward of the mainmast. It might have resulted in a series of explosions that would have entirely demolished the ship.

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1883- Chickamauga - 1898

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"was on a peaceful autumn day,
When leaves were falling, I lingered with ye ow
And his sices near and far away
Glowed in the waning sunlight, meadow,
That chirpy of the North and South
Met face to face at cannon's mouth.

And like a mighty, swelling flood
They onward rushed to reach a gory,
And the cars, river ran with a gory,
The fire and woods were torn and gory,
And the pale moon looked down at night
On trophies death gained in the fight.

Now where this awful war had burst
In waves of flame, in hail and thunder,
They see together whom mistrust
And faction's rage had rent asunder;
And North and South unites meet
Watch over this place where heroes meet.

Once more the peaceful scene is changed.
Upon this field of fame in story,
From North and South armies ranks are ranged
Eager for battle and for glory,
But now unites for they go,
Beneath one flag, to face the foe.

On Chickamauga, field of glory,
Change now thy cypress to a laurel;
For poets that surge thee like a flood
Unstained will leave thee in this hour.
O that are great, and over to us way,
Now, God of battles, point our way!

WILSON G. LOWELL.

Cheered the National Air.

Probably no better illustration of the war spirit of the people could be given than the occurrence of a popular east side restaurant in New York recently. The main floor of the place was comfortably filled with guests who were eagerly discussing the good things on the tables rather than any patriotic sentiments. Many of German extraction were present, but there were also some business men, fashionable and curiosity seekers. There was little in common between the various groups until the Hungarian orchestra played the "Star Spangled Banner." Then there was a transformation scene.

Every table in the room was tenanted by one or more persons. The orchestra played a popular and classic number, including the "Massachusetts" and received the customary applause without perceptible lessening of the buzz of conversation. Then the musicians tried a change of antics. They performed the "Red, White and Blue." When the familiar strains floated over the assemblage, there was a marked change. Talking ceased, and the old air was listened to in comparative silence. This was a victory for the players, and they decided on one more. They commenced to play the "Star Spangled Banner."

This number set the patrons wild. Instantly men rose to their feet and called out, "All up; everybody stand." The invitation was accepted at once. The men, many of them stout and comfortable business men with little supposed leaning to patriotic enthusiasm, dropped their conversations with their female companions and, rising, waited in breathless silence until the air was finished. Then a spontaneous outburst of applause, led by the men and participated in by the women, rose in the place. It was a scene not easily forgotten and one of the best indications of the feeling of the people in the present emergency.

Flags of the Army.

The most important flag in the army next to that of the secretary of war is the United States "bedquarterns" standard. It has a blue field gorgeous with embroidered with the national arms in brown and gold. Wherever it appears in active service it denotes the presence of the general commanding the army or his nearest ranking general.

In the regular line of march every regiment composing an army carries at its front the national colors, bearing on the fourth red stripe from the top the number of the regiment and its character, whether infantry, artillery or cavalry. Besides this it carries a regimental flag on which is embroidered a national coat of arms similar to that used by the president's special flag. The regimental flag for the infantry is blue. The cavalry is yellow. The artillery and battalion colors for engineers are both scarlet, but the flag for engineers bears a three tiered castle instead of the spread eagle.

Detached troops of cavalry and artillery carry small guidons, or pennants, bearing the troop number and letter. The regulation colors for the army, whether national or regimental, measure 5 1/2 feet long by 4 feet 4 inches wide. All "service" flags are made of bunting. Colors for ceremony are of silk. The trimmings, fringe, cord and tassels, of all flags must conform to the regulation colors of the division to which they belong. Flag poles are 2 feet long and 1 1/2 inches in diameter in the center, tapering slightly toward the ends. The pole is tipped with a nickel plated spearhead in the shape of a heart.

Famous War Correspondents.

War has made the fortune of many a reporter. Perhaps the ablest of recent correspondents is Archibald Forbes, who "did" the Franco-Prussian war for the London Daily News. Janarius Aloysius McGahan, an Orlan, served the New York Herald in the same war, but afterward worked for the London News, doing excellent service. George Augustus Sala was correspondent of the London Telegraph in our civil war, which gave him fame the world over.

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ON THE GUN DECK.

How the Enormous Cannon of a Man-of-War Are Manicured.

Copyright, 1938.

It is very difficult to realize the startling difference between the navy of 1812 or 1818 and that of 1938. The conditions are as different as night and day, and wrong or right, which resembled the cheap bedroom of a fourth rate boarding house; the gun deck, with its overhead tinners, reminding one of the interior of a barn; the mass of intricate ropes in coils and black, the many folds of flying sheet and sail, have all disappeared. Now it is all iron casements apparent to both men and officers live, though the rooms of the latter may have carpet or matting on the floors and such personal decorations as their fancy dictates. The vessel of former years was a wooden tub. Now she is an iron or steel shell.

Up to half a century ago the spars and sails were the armaments of

Wm Greenbur

All of the Mines are Active, and

Rudy & Crooks are sinking their le

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into a any proposition. They have up to

Portland, Gold Coin, Lille and Maton's th

last four months of 1937 amounted to

and Otto B. Ransbach

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

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